

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, a flexible outer skin which conformingly covers the top and at least a portion of the underside of an actuation member of an electrical switch.

Applicant submits that neither U.S. Pat. No. 6,737,592 to Hoang et al. ("Hoang") nor U.S. Pat. No. 6,794,592 to Liu et al. ("Liu") discloses at least the aforementioned feature of independent claim 1. In particular, it is submitted that secondary citation to Liu does not remedy the conceded deficiency in the primary citation to Hoang. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of the asserted combination, the asserted combination of Hoang and Liu is likewise deficient, even in view of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Office Action concedes that the primary citation to Hoang does not disclose the switch covered by a flexible outer skin. (Office Action, page 2). Nonetheless, the Office Action rejects independent claim 1, contending that the secondary citation to Liu provides this necessary disclosure. (Office Action, pages 3-4). This contention is respectfully traversed.

Liu relates to a dustproof and waterproof switch and discusses an arrangement including a catch member 4 covered by a covering member 5. (Liu, Col. 2, lines 33-36; Fig. 2). Liu, however, expressly teaches that covering member 5 is formed in the shape of a cap with reduced steps. (Liu, Col. 3, lines 38-40, Fig. 1). The reduced steps are required for flexibility (Liu, Col. 3, lines 53-56). Further, the Liu covering member 5 only covers the top and sides of the catch member 4 (Liu, Figs. 2 and 3). The reduced step configuration prevents the covering member from conformingly covering any portion of the underside of the catch member. Thus, Liu does not provide a disclosure that remedies the aforementioned, conceded deficiency in the primary citation to Hoang. Therefore claim 1 should be allowable.

Independent claims 17 and 18 as amended recite, inter alia, a flexible outer skin which conformingly covers the top and at least a portion of the underside of an electrical switch. For the reasons above, the combination of Hoang and Liu does not disclose every feature of independent claims 17 and 18. Therefore claims 17 and 18 should be allowable.

The remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed *supra*. Therefore the remaining claims should also be allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests Examiner pass this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
DO NOT ENTER

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